

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF EXPORTING FILE SYSTEMS WITHOUT FIRST  
MOUNTING THE FILE SYSTEMS**

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A method, system and apparatus for exporting file  
systems without having to mount them first are provided.  
10 Most Unix-based servers usually mount some system operation  
critical files at startup. Thus, directories have to be  
mounted. One or more of these directories are usually used  
as mount points for mounting other file systems when needed.  
An extended attribute file is used to provide all  
15 information needed to export a file system. Thus, a server  
need not mount a file system to obtain this information.  
That is on startup, a server needs only refer to these  
extended attribute files to obtain the information needed to  
export the file systems.

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